



Agriculture Working Group Fact Sheet

Chuckatuck and Brewers Creeks TMDL Implementation Plan

Why Do A TMDL Implementation Plan?

The development of a TMDL implementation plan is required by Virginia's Water Quality Monitoring, Information, and Restoration Act, which directs the State Water Control Board to "develop and implement a plan to achieve fully supporting status for impaired waters." Implementation plans provide communities with framework for restoring water quality in their watershed, and often provide opportunities to receive funds for restoration efforts from several sources including federal and state government.

How Can I Participate?

One of the primary means of public participation in this TMDL implementation plan process will be through three working groups; residential, agriculture, and government. Citizens may also serve on a steering committee, which will help to guide the overall implementation plan development process. The working groups provide citizens with a venue for active participation in the planning process. Each working group will report their ideas and recommendations to the steering committee for consideration to be included in the implementation plan. Strong public participation in these groups ensures that the final implementation plan reflects local concerns and ideas with regard to water quality improvements.

What will the Agriculture Working Group address?

The Agriculture Working Group will address the sources of bacteria that can be managed through farming practices. The group will focus on identifying obstacles to implementation of best management practices to reduce bacteria coming from agricultural operations and discuss practical solutions to these obstacles. An example of reductions in bacteria coming from agricultural operations can be achieved by removing all livestock from stream access and by utilizing other best management practices that reduce overland transport of bacteria in stormwater. The group will focus on the following tasks:

- Identify constraints to the implementation of best management practices
- Consider best management practices that are both effective and affordable for the participants
- Identify alternative funding sources/partnerships that will promote implementation
- Identify appropriate staged measurable goals
- Identify timeline for achieving implementation goals
- Review implementation strategies from a business perspective

Who makes up the Agriculture Working Group?

This working group should consist of farmers and landowners, local community organizations, and local, state and federal agency representatives.

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